

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 7-25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) and which encodes MINC102, wherein the stringent conditions are 30% formamide in 5 x SSPE (0.18 M NaCl, 0.01 M NaPO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.7, 0.001 M EDTA) buffer at a temperature of 42°C and remaining bound when subject to washing at 42°C with 0.2 x SSPE; or

(c) a nucleotide sequence which, as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, differs from the nucleic acid of (a) or (b) and which encodes MINC102.

2 – 14. (canceled)

15. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a mouse MINC102, comprising:

(a) SEQ ID NO:3; or

(b) a nucleotide sequence which, but for the degeneracy of the genetic code, would hybridize to the complement of SEQ ID NO:3, and which encodes a molecule having the biological activity of MINC102.

16-17. (canceled)